

Senator Jack Scott

21st District Legislative Update

July 2005



SENATOR SCOTT SPEAKS OUT ABOUT BUDGET AGREEMENT

Legislators and Governor Reach an Accord

Five days into the new fiscal year, legislative leaders and the Governor hammered out a \$117.5 billion budget deal producing a workable state budget that avoids new taxes, speeds up repayment of monies owed local government and avoids new borrowing.

The compromises may not make everyone happy, but they do put the state's fiscal house in order so that bills can be paid and programs can be funded.

I am very pleased that we were able to work out a budget agreement. But, one of the things we are going to have to look at closely is restoring the \$2 billion that the Governor cut from the California public schools when he failed to maintain the funding promises he made last year. I believe our public schools are still underfunded, with our spending trailing the nation by \$600 per student. Be assured I will continue my efforts to increase school funding and flexibility in the future.

Here are some of the highlights of the budget agreement:

The budget speeds up repayment of debt owed to cities, counties and special districts, and repays the \$1.1 billion owed to cities for the Vehicle License Fee gap loan.

For the first time, the budget allocates the full amount of transportation funding to local government - \$1.3 billion - approved by voters under Prop. 42.

It eliminates a proposal by the governor to require local school districts to pay an additional \$469 million in annual teacher pension fund contributions.

2005 LEGISLATION

The following bills of mine have been approved by the state Senate and are now being considered by Assembly committees. The last day for the legislature to approve bills is September 9. The Governor then has 30 days to sign or veto the measures.

SB 48 - Ammunition Sales to Minors

Closes a loophole in current law by requiring ammo vendors to check identification to prevent sales to underage buyers.

SB 207 - Vehicle Impoundment (DUI)

Authorizes police to impound a vehicle of repeat DUI offender for up to 15 days.

SB 218 - Termination of Parental Rights

Allows Juvenile Courts to review adoption recommendations after parental rights have been terminated and in cases where a relative or foster parent wishes to adopt the child.

SB 271 - Charitable Gift Annuities

Follow-up legislation to last year's bill (SB 1088) to clarify that licensed gift and annuities societies may invest in mutual funds and exchange traded funds as well as individual securities.

SB 302 - Adoption

Makes a number of changes in California adoption law in order to expedite the adoption process.

SB 352 - Chief Business Officer Training

Establishes training program to provide instruction in school finance, schools operations and leadership.

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LEGISLATION – Cont.

SB 358 - Babysitting - Foster Children

Gives foster families more leeway in hiring short-term babysitters for foster kids.

SB 361 - Community College Financing

Reforms the funding allocation formula for the 72 districts that comprise the California Community Colleges.

SB 652 - Community College/UC Transfer

Directs the University of California to establish a common lower-division transfer curriculum with the community colleges.

SB 724 - CSU Clinical Doctorates

Authorizes the 23-campus Cal State University to award a doctorate degree in Education (Ed.D)

SB 794 - K-12/Community College Vocational Education

Strengthens the links between vocational education in the Community Colleges and primary and secondary schools. Calls for expanding and aligning career technical education programs.

SB 1053 - School Site Funding: Local Improvement Pilot

Pilot project to put greater budget discretion in the hands of local school communities. Would allow up to 10 school districts to participate in the pilot project to allow maximum flexibility in the development of programs.

Scott's **SB 148 (Liquor Store Regulations)**, **SB 163 (Pharmaceutical Marketing Costs)**, **SB 192 (Senior/Annuities)** and **SB 845 (Vocational Education Teacher Requirements)** will be taken up again in January.

For further information on these bills, you may go on-line at: www.sen.ca.gov. Click on "Legislation" and enter the bill number. If you wish to be updated on the progress of a certain bill, click "Subscribe" and enter your e-mail address.

Budget Accord – Cont.

The budget adopts the Governor's school funding proposal for Prop. 98 but provides additional flexible funding to the schools.

Finally, it ensures that the governor's compact with the University of California and the California State University will be fully funded. Fees increases at UC and CSU will be kept to 8%. There will be no fee increase at community colleges.

Additionally, the budget protects the safety net for low-income Californians, as opposed to the Governor's harsh proposals:

- o No reduction in CalWORKs Grants
- o Avoids permanent elimination of the CalWORKs cost-of-living increases by compromising on a two-years suspension of the COLA.
- o Maintains the state's share of funding for In Home Supportive Services workers' wages.
- o Increases wages for IHHS workers to \$11.10 per hour.
- o Maintains existing funding for childcare for low-income working families.
- o No significant reductions in health care for low-income working families.
- o Eliminates a plan to require enrollment in managed care for Aged, Blind and Disabled Medi-Cal recipients.
- o Maintains rental and homeowner tax credits for seniors, disabled and blind.
- o Maintains full funding for mental health services for special education pupils.
- o Provides for a delay of the SSI/SSP federal cost-of-living adjustment for 3 months rather than a suspension of benefits.

Now that the budget has been settled, I am hopeful that the spirit of cooperation and bipartisanship between the legislature and the Governor will continue. There is still much work to be done here in Sacramento but this week's budget actions will help move California in the right direction.

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STARS OF THE ☆ ☆ 21ST DISTRICT

Glendale Activist Named Woman of the Year

Lori Hartwell Honored in State Capitol Ceremony

State Senator Jack Scott escorted Glendale resident Lori Hartwell to ceremonies in the Senate Chambers earlier this year. Senator Scott honored Hartwell for her work advocating for those with kidney disease. In his nominating speech, Scott pointed out:

“Lori Hartwell has overcome great personal obstacles while dedicating her life to helping others. Her willingness to share her triumphs and her setbacks are an example for all of us.”

Hartwell has battled kidney disease for years and has had three transplant operations. Despite that, she has organized support networks for those with renal problems and provides an annual prom for teenagers with kidney disease.



Senator Scott with
Woman of the Year Lori Hartwell



Senator Scott with
Teacher of the Year Derek Yuill and
Senate President pro Tem Don Perata

Gabrielino High Teacher Acknowledged in Senate

Senator Scott Recognizes Debate Coach

Gabrielino High debate coach Derek Yuill traveled to the State Capitol May 23, where State Senator Scott recognized him as “Teacher of the Year”. For the past eight years, Yuill has guided the school debate team to numerous victories on both the state and national level. He was named National Speech Coach of the Year in 2003 and has devoted numerous hours to coaching and directing his students. Yuill credits the faculty and students at Gabrielino High for his success. But, as Senator Scott states in his nominating speech:

“Derek Yuill stands out as the kind of enthusiastic and dedicated teacher working hard to improve the talents of our students and our schools.”

☆☆☆☆ 21st District Stars ☆☆☆☆



A Salute to Small Business

Temple City Businesswoman Honored by Senator Scott

Temple City businesswoman Linda Payne was honored as this year's Small Business Award winner for the 21st State Senate District at ceremonies in Sacramento last month. Payne is the owner of Embellish Salon and is an active member of the Temple City business community. In addition, she has put in many hours with Temple City schools raising over \$38,000 in donations for the school district and the Schools Foundation.

Senator Scott with Businesswoman of the Year Linda Payne

Senator Scott Names Winners of Student Art Contest

Jerome Rogers Painted "To The Top"

An Eliot Middle School student has been chosen as this year's top winner of the California Student Arts Contest from the 21st State Senate District. Jerome Rogers was awarded first-place for his painting entitled "To the Top."

"I am thrilled to honor these young artists who worked so creatively to articulate this year's theme: People Helping People," stated Senator Scott. "As Chair of the Joint Committee on the Arts, I want to encourage young people to express their views of their community through their art. And these young women and men have done a fine job. I will be delighted to hang their artwork in the Capitol and in my district office."



Art Contest Winner Jerome Rogers with Senator Scott

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